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NEWS

This week in-brief

CD News Staff

Honor to propose constitutional change eliminating expulsion sanction

Honor Committee representatives considered three proposals to alter its current case process Sept. 19. The committee ultimately voted in favor of proposing a policy that would remove expulsion as a sanction.

The plan that was approved by the committee would maintain the current single-sanction system in place. However, it would replace the sanction of expulsion with a two-semester leave of absence. The informed retraction would also be reduced from a two-semester leave of absence to a one-semester leave of absence under this plan.

For the changes to be made to Honor's constitution, 10 percent of the student body must vote during general elections this spring. Sixty percent of those who vote would need to vote in favor of the changes.



SOPHIE ROEHSE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Elliott wrote that UPD's presence in the MSC undermined any "good faith" approach they have to engage with students and marginalized communities.

Open letter says unwelcome UPD officers repeatedly approached student organizers

Sarandon Elliott, co-chair of the Young Democratic-Socialists of America's National Coordinating Committee and a fourth-year College student, released an open letter Sept. 12 saying that she and fellow student organizers have been approached by members of the University Police Department in the last few months asking to speak with them at the activities fair and in the Multicultural Student Center.

In an interview with The Cavalier Daily, Cortney Hawkins, diversity, equity and inclusion manager for UPD, and Dani Lawson, community engagement specialist for UPD, addressed the letter. Hawkins said they could not give any information about the phone call in July due to privacy reasons.

Lawson denied that she and Hawkins asked to speak specifically with Elliott or any other individual at the activities fair and claimed they attended the fair to engage with the community and introduce themselves to members of the leadership of different organizations on Grounds.

"We were there at the Student Activities Fair because ... it's our job to engage the students, and we talked to every single group or organization that was at the Activities Fair," Lawson said. "It was not just that particular organization."

Hawkins also confirmed that she and Lawson sometimes enter the MSC and the Latinx Student Center, but said that they only go into the space when they are invited, adding that sometimes, she and Lawson are invited to student centers by students that Lawson knows or are "getting food or doing other things" around Grounds.

"When we are invited, either by individual students or faculty or whatever, we do go," Hawkins said. "If we're not, we stay away. Because we understand that those are safe places for individuals and we understand that our presence — even mine and Dani's — may not always be welcomed by everyone."

Elliott said she also wanted the letter to call attention to the issue to urge students to create change at the University.

Cultural Organization for Latin Americans presents history of its activism

Dani Alvarenga, third-year College student and president of the Cultural Organization for Latin Americans, educated a group of community members on COLA's history and ongoing vision Sept. 20. The discussion was part of the Minority Rights Coalition's Memory Mondays event series, which helps record the history and activism of different marginalized groups at the University.

The MRC announced the series earlier this month as a way to maintain institutional memory of student activism on Grounds. Abena Appiah-Ofori, MRC chair and third-year College student, said she was inspired to create a series of student-led lectures detailing the history of a specific student group after realizing that most students on Grounds remain uneducated on pivotal instances of student activism in the University's history.

During the event, Alvarenga the way COLA has transformed since its founding. The organization has existed at the University in several forms, beginning in 2000 as a University-run umbrella organization named La Alianza to bring together Hispanic and Latinx student leaders across Grounds.

The group opted to form its own separate organization in 2008 to have autonomy from the University and rebranded itself as the Latino Student Alliance, which was changed to Latinx Student Alliance to be more gender inclusive in 2017.

"Our organization focuses its efforts on celebrating the diversity of cultures and identities that exist in Latin America rather than promoting the idea of one monolithic 'Latinx community,'" Alvarenga said.

Numerous groups split off from the main organization in 2018 to form Political Latinxs United for Movement and Action in Society, the Central Americans for Empowerment at UVa, and the Afro-Latinx Student Organization.

The aftermath of George Floyd's murder and a national and local reckoning over the role of race in American society in 2020 led LSA to consider if its leadership was unrepresentative of non-white Latinx members, Alvarenga said.

Some from within the group called for the Latinx Student Alliance to be disbanded, after criticism emerged from within the organization towards the group's focus on "Latinidad" ideals, which Alvarenga explained as "the idea that all Latinx people look the same, all Latinx people have the same culture, all Latinx people have the same experiences," and the fact that the group's leadership had become predominantly white.

In response to this, the group renamed itself COLA in 2021 to position itself as a cultural organization and to be more inclusive to those whose families and cultures come from Latin America but do not identify with or like the term Latinx, which is used by just 3 percent of American Hispanics.

To help move away from the idea of Latin Americans as a monolith, COLA plans to host language learning seminars — starting with Haitian Creole — in an attempt to dispel the myth that all Latin Americans speak the same language.

9.12

9.19

9.20

9.21

Local community supports Afghan evacuees in Charlottesville

Upon U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and the subsequent Taliban takeover, Afghan men, women and children have fled and entered communities in the U.S. Charlottesville is among these communities welcoming those leaving Afghanistan, with local organizations and members of the University community actively engaged in efforts to support these refugees.

The Charlottesville branch of the International Rescue Committee plays a pivotal role in helping refugees resettle into the new communities they enter by satisfying refugees' basic needs for food, shelter and legal rights in the early, critical stages of resettlement. IRC programs include employment services, education and integration, family support and New Roots — a food and agriculture initiative that provides land access, material support and education. The initiative operates an urban farm, community garden and neighborhood farm stand.

In addition to the IRC, the Afghan Student Association is also involved in the response to the crisis, leading protests and donation drives.

Neala Loynab, fourth-year College student and vice-president of ASA, said the group helped a local Afghan family in Charlottesville to welcome the first evacuee family that arrived in Charlottesville prior to their case being approved by the IRC.

The Charlottesville Alliance for Refugees at the University has been supporting the ASA's efforts. Its main mission is to connect the University community with the local refugee population. Through their several committees, the organization hopes to bring awareness to and educate the student body about the struggles of the local refugee community.

Mandatory historical tours teach first years U.Va.'s history

HEEAL, HRL, BRIDGE and Guides collaborated to create a new program to educate first years about the University's history of slavery.

Sydney Herzog | Staff Writer

This year, members of the Class of 2025 are required to attend a historical tour and debrief discussion centered around the history of enslaved laborers at the University. The new program was created through a collaboration between the University Guide Service, Housing and Residence Life, Bringing Race into Dialogue with Group Engagement and History of Enslaved African American Laborers.

Nettie Webb, U-Guides community education chair and fourth-year Engineering student, said the goal of the tours is to give first-year students an opportunity to learn about the aspects of the University's history that have been suppressed for many years.

"[The tours are] contextualizing this University's history of slavery and white supremacy, but then also having students question what their positionality is on Grounds, like what does that history and context mean for you now as a student in this still-developing era," Webb said. "So being able to add that context to first-years about the University they're attending and also showing them the opportunity to destroy the legacy of white supremacy here through activism."

To ensure that all students are able to attend a tour, each residence building was assigned a week-long period during which residents are expected to attend a tour. U-Guides are leading tours at 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and at 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Webb said HRL plans to enforce the requirement that all first years attend the tours — all students will have a month to go on the tour and if they do not, then they will have a one-on-one conversation with a resident advisor or senior resident.

Tours began Sept. 11 and will continue through Oct. 17. The historical tours take under an hour and each group is capped at 30 students to ensure an engaging and intimate experience.

"The student engagement has really surprised me," Webb said. "Looking through RA group chats, students have shared what they're learning and said they really enjoyed going on the tour because it has given them context of where they go to school."

During normal historical tours, members of U-Guides create their own tours and choose their own stops. To ensure that all necessary information is presented to members of the Class of 2025, however, the mandatory tours have been designed in collaboration between HEAAL and UGuides for the 15 guides who volunteered to lead the tours.

"Our tour guides have also said



SYDNEY HERZOG | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The tours include information on the history of enslaved laborers at the University, the creation of the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers and the position of students both on Grounds and within the larger Charlottesville community.

these tours are some of their best experiences they've had," Webb said. "Being able to relay this history and seeing how it impacts first-years and how they think about this University has also been really powerful and not something the group of us who are giving these really thought was going to happen or was possible at this time."

The tours include information on the history of enslaved laborers at the University, the creation of the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers and the position of students both on Grounds and within the larger Charlottesville community. Stops include the construction on the Lawn, the gardens which show the narratives of enslaved laborers and the Thomas Jefferson statue on the North side of the Rotunda to discuss the Unite the Right rally and events of Aug. 11 and 12.

"The tour hits the points and analyzes what slavery looked like and what that violence and resistance of enslaved laborers was and also how that context leads to a structure and landscape of segregation at U.Va. and fulfilling white supremacy," Webb said.

Kyndall Walker, third-year Batten student and one of the founding members of HEAAL, said the tour has also been approved and supported by Descents of Enslaved African American Labor Community at U.Va. The group — which was established in 2020 by the descendants of enslaved and free Black individuals who built the University — aims to

research, reclaim and honor the legacies of the enslaved and free Black communities and their descendants.

"We wanted to make sure [the descendants of enslaved laborers] were one, okay with what we were doing, and two, that they had a say in the material that we included in the tour and the subsequent that we debriefed and continued to have conversations about this space," Walker said.

Tours are supplemented with a conversation for every residence hall about the history presented. These discussions will be moderated by members of BRIDGE, an organization of students trained to sustain difficult conversations about race. They will begin after most of the tours have been completed in order to give BRIDGE additional time to train moderators.

As the organization that led the charge to create these mandatory tours, HEEAL has been working on this effort for two years. HEEAL is made up of seven BIPOC third-year women who were inspired to increase awareness of the University's history of enslaved laborers.

The members say their activism at the University began in 2019 after they went on a historical tour led by Architectural History Prof. Louis Nelson. Since then, they worked with Nelson throughout developing the educational program.

"It really shook us to our core, to be quite honest, that had we not happened to have this opportunity to go on this tour, we never would

have known that U.Va. had all of this hidden history, particularly when it comes to the history of enslaved African American laborers," Walker said. "This is an education issue and we wanted something that was very standardized that we knew every student was going to do and come out of U.Va. having understood."

Although HEEAL members said they expected backlash from students who did not want to attend tours or parents who did not think this program should be mandatory for their children, the only negative feedback they have received so far has been from RAs who did not want to have another thing to force their residents to attend. HEEAL heard these concerns, but said they felt the need for students to receive this education was more important.

"I've been so grateful for the student responses," Walker said. "On the first tour date we had there were 75 students just from Kellogg and that was incredible to hear because I really worried about student engagement and students shrugging it off and thinking this is not important for them but it is. This is about the spaces that we navigate."

After HEEAL expected negative backlash, they reached out to University President Jim Ryan's office three months ago to request a statement of support for the program. After following up in August, HEEAL has not received a response from President Ryan himself.

Outside of counseling from pro-

fessors and initial meetings with administrators such as HRL Associate Dean of Students Andy Petters, this program was built purely by students.

"One student came up to me yesterday and said 'I never would have known this. No class would have equipped me with this information if I had not done this,'" Walker said. "I think that is the special type of commentary we are looking for — that eye-opening experience."

In the future, HEEAL hopes to expand their organization. In order to leave a legacy at the University, they want to recruit more members who will continue their educational outreach once the seven founders graduate.

HEEAL also hopes to create future tours that incorporate more of the history of student activism at the University. Specifically, they intend to work with the Black Student Alliance to include the organization's advocacy on Grounds since the 1960s, especially highlighting the list of demands that BSA has asked for since the 1970s.

"We want to incorporate the history of making space for Black students at U.Va.," said third-year College student and HEEAL member Abena Appiah-Ofori. "We want the students who go on the tour to know that the struggle is still real and they still need to do what they can to support the black community on Grounds and in the broader Charlottesville community. In the end, we want it to be a call to action."

President Ryan discusses health, safety, equity

As U.Va. community returns to more normal operations, Ryan is not ready to “declare victory” over COVID-19 pandemic

Ava MacBlane, Maryann Xue & Jenn Brice | News Editors

On Wednesday, University President Jim Ryan joined The Cavalier Daily for an interview ahead of the Board of Visitors meetings this Thursday and Friday, where the 17 members of the corporate Board will vote on various aspects of the University’s long-term strategic goals, such as capital planning, policies and budgeting.

This slate of meetings is the full Board’s first of four for the 2021-2022 academic and fiscal year. Starting this month, the sessions return to their in-person format in the Rotunda, though seating will be limited to avoid crowds. Meetings remain open to online viewing by the public, but the Board does not open opportunities for unscheduled public comment.

Among topics to be discussed are administrators’ priorities for the year, tenets of the 2030 Great and Good strategic plan, ongoing Honor the Future capital campaign and searches for University leadership positions — such as the vacant Dean of Students position.

Ryan’s priorities for the year, which he plans to present to the Board, include promoting health and safety, advancing strategic plan key initiatives, identifying areas for key investment, recruiting and onboarding new leaders and re-engaging with the University community in Charlottesville and beyond.

The University embraced a return to in-person living and learning this fall, welcoming 4,631 new students to Grounds this August. More than 97 percent of students and 93 percent of faculty are vaccinated, as students are required to be vaccinated or obtain a medical or religious exemption by July 1 to live and learn on Grounds. Faculty and staff are encouraged — but not required — to get vaccinated.

The main message Ryan emphasized regarding the University’s current COVID-19 policies — vaccines are effective and important in keeping the community safe.

“There have been breakthrough cases, but they’re still rare, and even when there are breakthrough cases the symptoms are either non-existent or they’re quite mild,” Ryan said. “As long as that remains the case, I feel really optimistic about the semester. As long as another variant doesn’t come along that is resistant to the vaccine, I think we’re in pretty good shape.”

The University disenrolled 238 students who did not comply with the immunization instructions when classes began, though less than 50 of those individuals had even picked their courses for the

semester. Faculty and staff were encouraged — but not required — to get vaccinated.

Weeks before classes convened, University leaders reintroduced a universal indoor masking requirement for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals that will be reevaluated Oct. 1. Ryan said he senses support for the masking requirement among students and faculty, noting that he hasn’t received many complaints.

“This is always a matter of balancing public safety with the desire to provide as vibrant an opportunity as we can,” Ryan said. “We’re doing our best to follow the science and listen to our medical experts. That’s what we did all last year, and that’s what we’ll do this year.”

Despite the progress, Ryan said he is not ready to “declare victory” given the unpredictable nature of the pandemic.

“I am sure COVID has another few curveballs waiting for us,” Ryan said. “If there’s any pattern to this, just when you think you’ve got your arms around it, you get thrown another curveball.”

The University implemented mandatory weekly prevalence testing for all students last semester, though only unvaccinated students are subject to weekly testing this fall. Students, however, have expressed uncertainty over the University’s COVID-19 protocols and frustration with testing capacity, calling for mandatory testing to be reinstated.

Professors continued to stress the importance of masking up and keeping classmates safe as concerns rose over symptomatic students attending classes. Provost Liz Magill’s office continues to handle guidance for instructors accommodating students who may have to miss class due to COVID-19 symptoms, Ryan said. The office is encouraging instructors to treat the issue the way they would if a student was absent for any other illness-related reason by recording classes or having another student take notes.

With the impact of the pandemic ongoing, Ryan acknowledged the lasting legacy online learning opportunities will maintain higher education. While online and hybrid courses will continue to remain an educational feature, he said the experiential, organic interactions of in-person learning remain essential.

“As much as it showed the possibilities of what you could do online, it sort of showed the value, I think, of a residential experience,”

Ryan said.

Online learning provided flexibility in terms of scheduling, creating opportunities for students who weren’t physically on Grounds to continue learning and for guests from around the world to visit classes with greater ease, Ryan said. Referencing online January-term and summer session courses, he said he expects this flexibility to continue to be a part of the education the University offers.

“Our first attention goes to the residential education that we offer here in Charlottesville, but we’ve been reaching more and more people who never come to Charlottesville or only come to Charlottesville occasionally,” Ryan said. “If we can offer our education to a wider spectrum of potential students, I think that’s one really good way to serve the public.”

The University community has also seen a noticeable increase in the number of public safety alerts issued this fall. Since the start of the semester, the University has issued seven “community alerts” — emails from Tim Longo, chief of the University Police Department and vice president of safety and security, which notify the community of nearby incidents. After a University student was accidentally struck by a stray bullet through a bathroom wall at Boylan Heights, Ryan addressed growing safety concerns in a community-wide email.

The University plans to expand University and Charlottesville police presence as well as ambassador presence on Grounds, according to an email sent to the University community by interim Dean of Students Julie Caruccio and Vice President for Student Affairs Robyn Hadley. Ambassadors are unarmed individuals who patrol on- and off-Grounds walkways in a reflective, neon uniform. The University also hopes to expand its free, on-demand Safe Ride transportation service.

However, many students — especially students of color — express concern about the presence of police officers in the spaces where they go to class, socialize and go about their lives. Sarandon Elliott, fourth-year College student and committee chair of the Young Democratic Socialists of America chapter at the University, wrote an open letter published Sept. 12 detailing UPD’s repeated, unwelcome attempts to contact her within the last few months.

“By continuing to approach students to request meetings and enter these spaces after multiple

students have expressed their discomfort to you, you are actively undermining your ‘good faith’ approach and desire to build bridges with marginalized communities here at the University,” Elliott wrote in the letter.

Throughout the pandemic and the transition back to in-person learning, students voiced discontent with the University’s Counseling and Psychological Services. Most recently, Young Democratic Socialists of America at U.Va. launched a mental health campaign demanding the University provide more robust funding for CAPS and the Women’s Center, end UPD involvement in mental health crisis response and hire a more diverse staff of qualified counselors.

Ryan said he’s in discussions with Robyn Hadley, vice president and chief student affairs officer, about gaps in the University’s mental health services.

“I’ve heard from some students about wait times when they call CAPS, for example, and I’ve also heard from people at CAPS that they actually have availability, so I’m trying to figure out where the disconnect is there,” Ryan said.

Aside from CAPS, Ryan said the University is planning to ramp up programs such as HoosConnected, which brings together transfer students, first-years and second-years in the Connect-2Grounds program for weekly conversations surrounding belonging and making meaningful connections on Grounds.

“Providing support for students and ways to find community that help with a general feeling of inclusion and help reduce anxiety by creating connections, I think, in some respects, is just as important as making sure that we have enough counselors,” Ryan said.

The University is home to an increasingly diverse student body. In the first year class, more than 41 percent of students identify as a racial minority, making the Class of 2025 the most racially diverse class in University history.

One of the University’s main strategies in attracting and retaining a diverse student body is “increasing the visibility and availability of scholarships” geared towards minority, low-income and first-generation students, Ryan said.

These include a fund for students who wish to transfer from the Piedmont Virginia Community College to the University and marching programs for the Blue Ridge Scholars program and the University Achievement Award,

both of which have “criteria that are designed to increase the diversity of our student body,” he noted.

“Those scholarships have been quite effective, but they have not really had the visibility that I would like to see, and sometimes it’s the visibility of those opportunities that encourages people to apply in the first place,” Ryan said.

In his inaugural move as president, Ryan promised free tuition for Virginia families earning less than \$80,000 per year, plus free tuition, room and board for undergraduate students whose families earn less than \$30,000 per year.

“That’s a really easy concept to understand, rather than hearing that we’ll cover 100 percent of financial need through a combination of grants, work study and loans, which I think can be confusing or intimidating,” Ryan said.

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education — a nonpartisan foundation that works to defend the rights of students and faculty at America’s colleges — awards the University a green light rating, meaning that its policies normally protect free speech. This year, however, FIRE ranked the University 22nd for free speech — a drop from sixth place last year.

Free speech was the subject of much debate over the year, particularly concerning signs that were posted on Lawn room doors last fall and spring that critiqued the University’s history of enslavement and inaccessibility, among other issues. On Wednesday afternoon, Housing and Residence Life removed lawn room signs that violated the newly-instituted signage restrictions — which restrict residents to posting signs on message boards narrower than an 8.5 inch piece of paper — including one posted by fourth-year College student Emma Camp which included the full text of the First Amendment.

Ryan emphasized the significance of the statement that the Committee on Free Expression and Free Inquiry drafted which was endorsed by the Board of Visitors in June.

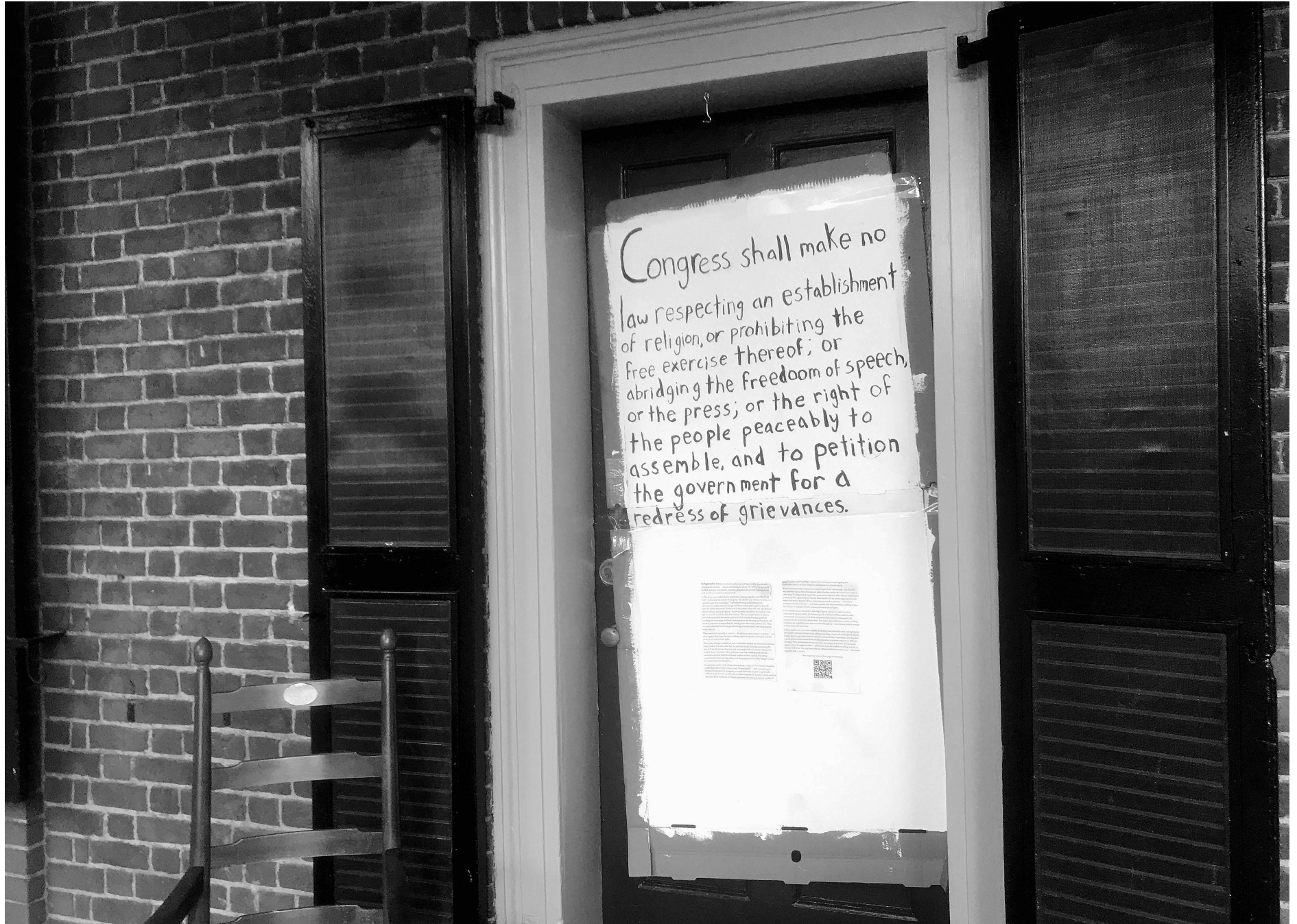
The statement “unequivocally affirms” the University’s commitment to free speech and inquiry, pledging that all views, beliefs and perspectives should be considered without interference.

“My hope is that that message will be spread widely across the university and remind people that the core value of any university, including U.Va., is the protection and promotion of free speech and free inquiry,” Ryan said.

Lawn room signs removed for violating new HRL policy

The sign, which takes up most of the door, includes the full text of the First Amendment

Ava MacBlane | News Editor



AVA MACBLANE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Camp's sign contained the full text of the First Amendment and remained posted for six days before it was removed by HRL.

Fourth-year College student Emma Camp posted a sign on her Lawn room door Friday — Constitution Day — in protest of the University's newly implemented policy which restricts the size of signs allowed on Lawn room doors. The sign contained the full text of the First Amendment and takes up almost the entirety of the door — far larger than the size of the two message boards the current policy restricts signage to.

In an interview with the Cavalier Daily, Camp said her main goal in posting the sign is to have the policy changed. The restrictions to Lawn room door signage were implemented this academic year following controversy over Lawn room signs displayed last

fall and spring that critiqued the University's history of enslavement and accessibility.

"[The University said] 'Okay, we don't like what Lawnies are putting on their doors, so we're going to essentially keep them from putting large signs on their doors,'" Camp said. "And I realized that that is something I couldn't abide."

Camp put the sign up early Friday morning, 234 years after the signing of the Constitution. Camp said that before posting the sign, she sent an email to the Office of the Dean of Students letting them know that she would be adding the display to her door and acknowledging that this would break the Lawn resident policy.

Camp said Interim Dean of Students Julie Caruccio responded and thanked Camp for her "reasoned heads up" and that Housing and Residence Life would be following up.

HRL sent an email to Lawn residents Tuesday saying that many rooms were not "in compliance" with the policy and that facilities management staff would be removing any non-compliant items at noon Wednesday if residents did not take them down.

As Camp did not take down her sign, staff members arrived to remove the sign from her door Wednesday afternoon as Camp filmed them.

"That's bulls—t," one passerby says in the video as a staff member

folds the sign in half.

HRL also removed other residents' items, including 8.5 by 11 inch fliers that did not fit within the constraints of the message boards. One such flier was removed from the Lawn room door of Abel Liu, fourth-year College student and president of Student Council.

"The bottom line is that, in my experience, we are not seeing content-neutral guidelines or observations," Liu said. "These guidelines are a reaction to Black and Brown students utilizing free speech in a unique space to highlight the institution's violent past ... The University has not been consistent in requiring compliance with its own Lawn room pol-

icies."

Another Lawn resident was forced to trim his poster — which advocated for reproductive rights — down by one inch so that it would fit on the board.

"Pretty much every single one of the pin boards [HRL] gave us is smaller than an 8.5 by 11 sheet of paper, so it's nearly impossible to post anything without it going over the edge of the board," Camp said.

While Camp is the first Lawn resident to protest with a larger sign, she is not the first to critique the new policy. Current and former Lawn residents previously called the restrictions "very hypocritical" and said they served "no good purpose."

"I love U.Va., I'm extremely grateful for the opportunities I've had in my time here, but I think a bad call was made in regards to restrictions on Lawn signage," Camp said.

Camp said she finds it "cowardly" that the University — whose Board of Visitors endorsed an "unequivocal" commitment to free speech last June — has "failed to uphold those precedents" by removing and restricting signs.

"[My hope is that] we can get back to having this beautiful tradition that we used to have of Lawn rooms just covered in posters and pride flags and fliers and messages," Camp said. "It was this really wonderful beautiful thing that has died out because of this new policy."

The University currently has a green-light rating from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, a nonpartisan foundation which works to "defend and sustain the rights of students and faculty at America's colleges." Green-light institutions are those whose "policies nominally protect free speech," according to FIRE.

The University is currently rated 22 on FIRE's College Free Speech Rankings list. This is a drop from 2020, when it placed

sixth.

"There's very much this idea that if speech upsets you, that means the speech shouldn't be al-

lowed to exist," Camp said. "If we have these rights but not a culture of free speech, that's not great because people have rights they

don't use."

Camp hopes her actions will inspire other Lawn residents to fight back against the policies.

"I hope I inspire other people to put up signs," Camp said. "Freedom of speech is the hill I've decided to fight and die on."



AVA MACBLANE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Another Lawn resident was forced to trim his poster down by one inch so that it would fit on the board.

Students translate passions into impactful clubs

Clubs created last spring provide outlets for professional development and physical activity while students faced pandemic restrictions

Emma Gallagher | Staff Writer

Although many in-person activities were suspended last year due to COVID-19 restrictions, the pandemic also inspired the creation of new CIOs, from Undergraduate Women in Law to Pickleball at U.Va., among others. These clubs have given members a space to meet new friends, find new communities and learn and grow during a long year of isolation.

Third-year Commerce student Alexis Foster and third-year College student Mary Withycombe started Undergraduate Women in Law last spring. The roughly 50-person club discusses issues surrounding women in law and provides LSAT resources for members.

In an email statement to The Cavalier Daily, Foster said that she decided to found the club after noticing the need for a space for women entering the legal profession.

"We decided to start the club because we felt like there wasn't a space where women could come together and prepare for law school at U.Va. and hear directly from women about their law school and legal practice experience," Foster said. "We wanted a

place where women could assume leadership positions, and play a strong role in the types of discussions and events that they wanted to take part in."

Foster also explained some of the issues women confront when planning to pursue a legal career.

"Despite women being almost equal to men in terms of law school [acceptances] and [landing] lower level positions, there is a much larger gap when it comes to higher level positions in law," Foster said. "This can also be even more of a concern when it comes to minority women in law."

While Undergraduate Women in Law focuses on providing students with communities of peers interested in similar career paths and issues, Pickleball Club was born out of a simple desire — to introduce students to a new, active hobby during the pandemic.

Pickleball — which combines aspects of tennis, badminton and ping-pong — is a sport played with a paddle and a small plastic ball. It can be played either inside or outside on a badminton-size court.

Third-year Education student Delaney Stone and third-year

College student Addie Wood founded the Pickleball Club last spring. The club currently has more than 200 members.

In an email statement to The Cavalier Daily, Stone explained the club's unique beginnings.

"Our club was actually founded because of an interest developed during quarantine," Stone said. "My roommate, Addie Wood — who is now our club president — had picked up pickleball while at home, and got the rest of us interested in it in fall of 2020."

Despite quarantine and gathering restrictions last semester, the CIOs found ways to engage with members.

Although the Pickleball Club held their first official practice of the semester on Sept. 6, they hosted a number of socially distanced group events last year. The club organized an informal tournament last November, as well as a practice attended by University President Jim Ryan in March. Stone said pickleball has become even more of a success with the return of in-person activities.

"The turnout at our interest meeting was amazing, and we've

continued to see impressive attendance at weekly practices," Stone said. "Things are going extremely well so far, and I think a big part of that has to do with people being excited to return to in-person activities."

Meanwhile, Undergraduate Women in Law held its first official event this semester. Aside from a Legally Blonde viewing, Foster and Withycombe said they found it difficult to engage with members virtually last spring. Fortunately, the club hosted its first official meeting via Zoom last night. The club invited speakers from Virginia Law Women — a similar group for female students at the University's School of Law. The meeting concluded with breakout rooms, where members were able to introduce themselves and discuss their legal interests.

Each of the CIOs said they hope to expand their reach over the course of the semester.

Foster's main goal is to make Undergraduate Women in Law an official CIO. Groups may apply for CIO status through Student Council. To do so, they must meet certain criteria, such as a minimum of 10 committed

members, an established leadership team and a constitution.

"We have been working diligently to reach all the requirements for CIO status so that we can apply this semester," Foster said. "We also would like to build community and further legal consciousness within our community of undergraduate women."

Similarly, Wood said she hopes to grow Pickleball Club in the future.

"In terms of our general goals, we hope to grow people's general knowledge and appreciation of the sport and also provide an inclusive athletic club for people of all abilities," Wood said. "As Delaney mentioned, turnout has been big — bigger than we expected! — so we're working to accommodate our larger numbers."

The Pickleball Club plans to accommodate its new members by working with IM-Rec to increase the number of pickleball courts. The club also hopes to paint more lines on the existing courts and put in more pickleball nets.

Both CIOs agreed that their clubs provided a sense of purpose and community during a difficult time.

LIFE

Once again, a lot has changed in the past 365 days

We deserve to enjoy the experience of being students at this University

Mario Rosales | Life Columnist

One year ago I wrote a column about how much life as a student had changed just over the course of a year. I brought up the memories I had as a first-year and contrasted them with what we were experiencing then as students attending classes via Zoom. Now, as an older and — hopefully — wiser student, I'd like to once again remind everyone where we were 365 days ago, and once again reflect on the significance of the changes that have occurred over the past year.

Though challenging in many different ways and to various degrees for everyone, the last 12 months still seem to have flown by, and part of me cannot believe that it was just last year that I was settling in for my first 8 a.m. class over Zoom. Now, I'm walking to my 8 a.m. — I never have any luck with getting my required classes at sensible hours. On one particular short but nostalgia-filled walk, memories of my first year suddenly filtered back into my head as familiar but somewhat forgotten acquaintances from the previous year exchanged smiles with me on the way to class.

Then after finishing my last discussion section on Thursday evening, I met my friends for dinner at the packed Virginian. This prompted me to think back to the FaceTime dinners I had with my friends and family while I spent two weeks in isolation with COVID-19 during the spring semester. Finally, I made my way back to my apartment to meet up with my roommates and strolled down the bustling sidewalk that was filled with students of all ages enjoying each other's company. I then thought about all the time upperclassmen missed with their friends last year — and how that's something they will never get back.

Thankfully, the change from last year to this year is night and day, and I believe the statement in my column from last August has always remained true — the experience of attending the University is one that revolves around the people.

But now I'd like to add an ad-



MARTHA WILDING | THE CAVALIER DAILY

dendum to that claim — over the past three weeks of in-person classes, I've realized that this experience is also irreplaceable. For example, where else in the world are you going to walk around every day amongst 17,000 other students and have someone to wave at or catch up with wherever you walk?

That's one thing that I forgot about last year — nothing can brighten up your day like walking through Grounds and just running into people you know. The friends, and in some cases families, that

we've built here are the reasons why this school means as much as it does to us — and this is why I am advocating for a slight change in our perspectives this semester.

Now, I have always been a proponent of putting academics first. However, this semester, I think we should squeeze every last second out of being with the people that we love and the people that make us want to wake up for that abominably early 8 a.m. class — I write that even after my previous column, which explains how I

woke up at 2:45 a.m. for most of the summer. I'm not necessarily saying that school comes second — rather, I just want to emphasize how important it is that we get out of our comfort zones and get to know our peers once again.

The past 18 months have deprived current second-, third- and fourth-years of the true University experience. Therefore, we should feel free to let go just a little bit. Maybe that means making a point to attend every single home football game or mandating weekly dinners

with friends at Boylan Heights or Crozet Pizza. Whatever it is, remember that almost everything is better while in the company of loved ones.

And finally, to the beloved first-years — take it all in and meet as many people as you can. There is nothing quite like being a student on Grounds, and I wouldn't trade this experience for the world. So grab a roommate, friend, acquaintance or someone you met five seconds ago, and enjoy what in-person life on Grounds has to offer.

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CAVALIERDAILY.COM

Top 10 ways to persevere through in-person classes

Burnout might seem all the more possible with the return of in-person classes, but here are 10 ways to keep chugging

Zachary Anderson | Top 10 Writer

1. Bring water and snacks if your professor allows it

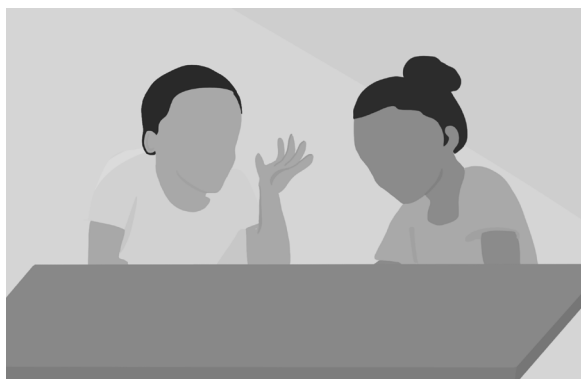
Staying hydrated and well nourished can be tough since our lives have made the transition from the comforts of virtual work back to the stereotypical classroom environment we all remember from our high school and early college years. A study by the University of East London found that students who bring water to their classes could expect to see their grades improve by up to 10 percent. Having a well-hydrated body and mind is crucial to get through the toughest of classes, and it also affords us a little distraction from the droning voice of professors in lecture halls.

2. Take notes with pen and paper

Some may think that this is a little old-school, and it is more convenient than ever to jot down lecture notes on a computer. However, from personal experience, I can attest that hand-writing notes makes the time in class go by a bit faster. Writing is a kinetic art that engages the senses in a way that typing cannot replicate, and there have been studies that show how handwritten note taking can actually improve learning and understanding new material.

3. Chat with your classmates

The great return to lecture halls and classrooms has given us the opportunity to engage face-to-face with our peers, and it is refreshing to see people liberated from their virtual meeting cells to desks and chairs in classrooms throughout the University. Ask your seat neighbor about their thoughts on classes. A little small talk can go a long way in making someone's day, and it can also revitalize the academic community that was lost as a result of virtual learning.



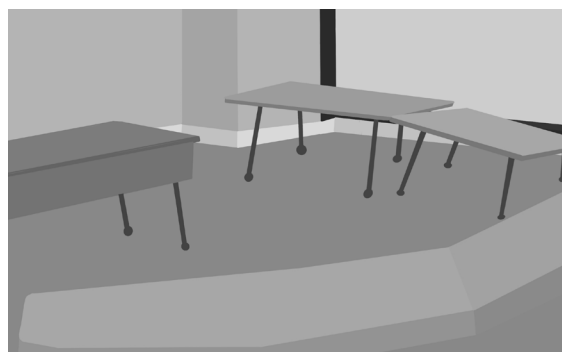
ANISHA HOSSAIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

4. Create space in your routine for relaxation or exercise

A morning run, an episode of your favorite show or a mid-afternoon nap are all great ways to decompress some of the stresses of in-person learning. Allowing some time to get away from all the hustle and bustle of crowded lecture halls and tightly packed classrooms can reduce the toll that in-person classes have on the senses.

5. Be an active participant in discussions

It is understandable that most people just want to go to class just to get it over with, and being a passive participant is how most people spend their time in class. On the off chance that your professor asks a thoughtful question, take a shot at it. In my personal experience, critically engaging with the material is a great way to make the time go by. It can also make the class more fun!



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6. Respectfully communicate with your professors

Taking the time to engage in conversation with professors reduces the stress levels that can subsequently be associated with academia, and I can attest to this tip through personal experience. There were times in the past where I wanted to speak with professors, but the virtual environment left us all with cold, pixelated screens illuminating our rooms. Thankfully we now have the opportunities to meet the people behind the screen in a way that is much more engaging and mentally rewarding.

7. Dress comfortably when going to classes

I think that we can all agree that we miss wearing our sweatpants and oversized sweaters when everything used to be virtual. However, there is no fashion police at the University — as far as I am aware — so embrace the upcoming sweater weather. Fortunately, we have proof that donning our comfy clothes even makes us better students! A study done at Austin Community College and others in the area found that wearing the clothing that you feel most comfortable in can increase productivity and test scores.

8. Have some time to keep in touch with family and friends

Taking time to disconnect from schoolwork is great, and how could that time be spent? Call your family and friends! It is almost guaranteed that they probably miss talking to you a lot more than you might expect, and taking a break in the academic grind can be a kind gesture to both yourself, your friends and family.

9. Try to maintain your hobbies

Maintaining hobbies is no easy task when there are deadlines fast approaching, but they serve as a constructive escape from the burdens associated with academia. Sometimes it becomes difficult to maintain little joys in life brought from actions like journaling, sketching or playing musical instruments as going to and from in-person classes can feel like quite the rat race. Nurturing a hobby has been proven to provide significant mental health benefits as well! Unfortunately, I don't think that binge-watching Netflix is classified as a hobby.



ANISHA HOSSAIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

10. Don't be afraid to prioritize your mental health over your work

Sometimes there is not anything that will prevent burnout from classes, and it is certain that this has happened to many. Sometimes the best thing to do when school is overwhelming you is to do nothing at all. Ensuring that you are well rested and mentally prepared to learn in this environment can be challenging sometimes, and — fortunately — there are many resources available at the University to accommodate these needs. Being in academia can be challenging, but the process can be extremely rewarding when your needs are met and you are at your best.

If you are struggling this semester and need assistance, please refer to CAPS at UVa. The Women's Center also offers counseling services and resources.

SPORTS

Jewish athletes find their voice on Grounds

Martin Weisz and Arizona Ritchie worked together to start the Jewish Student-Athletes Club to provide a space for fellow Jewish athletes to bond

Sam Liss | Staff Writer

It is fall of 2018 and two first-year student-athletes are still getting acclimated to Grounds, their new teammates and the certainly fickle University dining experience.

Then-freshman Martin Weisz, a 6-foot-6, 325-pound offensive guard from West Palm Beach, Fla. is waking up at dawn, juggling his busy class schedule with grueling practices and intermittently serving as a vacuum — inhaling pounds of food to maintain his massive frame. Then-freshman Arizona Ritchie, a second baseman from Stafford, Va., is experiencing the off-season grind of collegiate softball for the first time, trying to make a good impression while competing with her teammates for a starting spot on the diamond.

Fast forward to their fourth year on Grounds — Weisz is now medically retired from football, maintaining his scholarship as a data analyst for the football team, and Ritchie is gearing up for her final season with the Cavaliers. As the two walk side by side down Rugby Road on a beautiful Tuesday morning, Weisz in a suit and Ritchie in a dress, they discuss the details of their first club meeting for the organization they had just founded.

What brought these two together you may ask? Well, Weisz's father probably puts it best.

"There's a joke my dad used to tell me," Weisz said. "Ask the librarian for the thinnest book in the library — it's a list of professional Jewish athletes."

This may be a joke, but Ritchie found this aphorism all too true as she navigated her new life at Virginia.

"It was really difficult to find other Jewish student-athletes," Ritchie said. "Martin was the only one I knew for my first three years."

Ritchie and Weisz were both born and raised Jewish, however, from an early age, they did not always find themselves in Jewish environments. At the Benjamin School, Weisz remembers his fellow Christian teammates bowing down before each game to recite the Lord's prayer, while Ritchie found herself isolated at times during high school where she and her sister were two of the only Jewish students in the entire school.

During their teenage years,

as they started to separate from their teammates on their respective fields, both the offensive guard and the second baseman realized that they had a chance to play the sports they loved past high school. At the same time, they each knew that their situations were unique — growing up, neither had had athletes that they could look up to that not only mirrored their passion for sport but also their Jewish lifestyle and faith.

"I honestly didn't have any Jewish athletes to look up to," Ritchie said. "I don't even think I could name you a [Jewish] athlete right now."

Weisz echoed the same sentiment, yet, in recent years, he has found comfort in the story of two Jewish NFL players, Mitchell and Geoff Schwartz, who happen to play the same position as himself and his younger brother.

"I read their book, 'Eat My Schwartz,' about their journey growing up Jewish [where they] talked about Yom Kippur [and shared] a lot of similarities between me and my little brother's stories," Weisz said. "I wouldn't say I looked up to them, but it is always cool to know that there's Jewish athletes ... here and there making waves."

Just like the Schwartz brothers, Weisz and Ritchie were annually forced to confront their conflicting religious and athletic responsibilities on important Jewish holy days, such as Yom Kippur.

In the Jewish tradition, there are two High Holidays, one of which is Yom Kippur — a day of atonement. The other is Rosh Hashanah, which serves as the Jewish New Year and falls 10 days after Yom Kippur. During these holidays, which take place in early fall, it is customary for many American Jews to attend services and visit family members — as during another important holiday, Passover or Pesach, which occurs in the spring. Likewise, Yom Kippur and Passover come with obligatory dietary restrictions, with the former requiring an almost 24-hour, sundown-to-sundown fast and the latter a forgoing of all risen bread and grains for an entire week.

For Ritchie, her experiences during these holidays evolved throughout her four years at Virginia.

"I think it's been a progression — at first I was a little nervous to speak up for how I wanted to handle [the High Holidays]," Ritchie said. "This year was a big year and I think I've gotten more connected with my religion, and I talked to my coach and told her how I wanted to skip class for services."

As for Weisz, his way of dealing with religious obligations has also changed during his time on Grounds, though much of it can be attributed to his medical retirement.

"I always practiced on those days," Weisz said. "Now actually since I'm in a less crucial role, I was able to miss them for the High Holidays."

Weisz also joked about the difficulties of maintaining a calorically bountiful football diet while observing holidays with dietary restrictions.

"Passover was always fun because the food that they gave us had so much real bread in it, I'm like, 'Oh I can't eat this — I have to eat matzah,'" Weisz said.

Yet, during times like these, when their religion forced them to deviate from the norm, both fourth years noted they had unique opportunities as teachers.

"I'm very outward with my faith, like I'm a proud Jew and all my friends know that," Weisz said. "It's been great because I believe I'm the only Jewish football player, so anytime somebody had a question that was related to Judaism or Israel ... they would always come to me for their first point of contact."

For many American Jews, sharing details about holidays is often the only time they find themselves expressing their religious identity.

"Everyone knew I was fasting yesterday at practice," Ritchie said. "I'm proud of it. I try to get it out there because I think a lot of people don't know about Judaism."

A dream for almost any athlete, this past summer Ritchie had an opportunity to represent the Israel National Softball Team on the diamond. Not only did Ritchie gain valuable experience playing against some of the world's best athletes, but she also cites her time with the team as a period of extreme growth in her Jewish identity.

"We got so close so fast," Rit-



COURTESY VIRGINIA ATHLETICS

Senior softball second baseman Arizona Ritchie has found a strong Jewish community in her sport, having played for Israel's national softball team.

chie said. "We just have the same experiences. All of us mentioned how we've never played this sport that we love so much with other Jewish people. A whole team of Jewish people that are like you that have the same roots bonded us really quick."

When she returned to Grounds this fall, Ritchie was determined to become a more active member of the Jewish community in her final year at Virginia. Luckily, she had a friend in Weisz, who was also keen on contributing to the community and making the University a more comfortable place for Jewish athletes in years to come.

With some guidance from Rabbi Jake Rubin, the executive director at Charlottesville Brody Jewish Center, the Jewish Student-Athletes Club was born.

"[We were] trying to see if there are other Jewish student-athletes or [athletes] trying to learn about the Jewish faith," Weisz said.

According to Rubin, there are an estimated 1,000 undergraduate Jewish students at the University. Yet, of those 1,000

students, the Brody Center or University of Virginia Hillel only sees about 700 of them over the course of a year.

While all Jews are welcome and invited to attend the weekly events that the Brody Jewish Center organizes for the larger Jewish community at the University, Jewish athletes like Weisz and Ritchie are hard pressed to find time for these activities due to their grueling schedules.

"One of the reasons I started the club is because Jewish athletes aren't able to be a part of the community because of our busy schedules," Ritchie said. "One of the goals of the club is to bring together people that don't find themselves [at the Brody Center] that often due to time conflicts."

As Weisz and Ritchie walked back together from Rosh Hashanah services on that beautiful Tuesday morning, they imagined a time in the future when three, four or even five Jewish student-athletes will make that same walk down Rugby Road together to High Holiday services.

Highlighting some of Virginia's best comebacks

The “Cardiac Cavs” have broken the hearts and subsequently lifted the spirits of Virginia fans with these remarkable comeback stories

Akhil Rekulapelli | Sports Editor

Virginia sports teams have a knack for providing some of the highest of highs and lowest of lows. We take a look at how Cavalier teams have emerged from some of these lows to reach some of college athletics' greatest heights.

Women's soccer: From a second-round upset in 2019 to the College Cup in 2021

The 2019 rendition of Virginia women's soccer was a team for the ages, going undefeated in the regular season — winning 14 out of their 17 matches — and boasting stars like then-senior forward Meghan McCool and freshman forward Diana Ordoñez, who combined for 30 goals and 7 assists on the season. After torching their regular-season competition, the Cavaliers advanced to the ACC Tournament, where they held the No. 1 ranking in the nation and downed Duke and No. 5 Florida State en route to a championship date with North Carolina. While the Cavaliers fell to the Tar Heels in overtime — where star goalkeeper Laurel Ivory — was knocked out of the game with a concussion and fractured jaw, they moved onto the NCAA Tournament where they were the No. 3 seed in the nation. After making light work of in-state opponent Radford in the first round, Virginia faced upstart Washington State, who took advantage of the Cavaliers' loss of Ivory and upset the Cavaliers 3-2.

The following season, while Virginia sputtered at times — falling to North Carolina once again in the ACC Tournament and to Clemson in a 3-0 shutout loss — the Cavaliers avenged last year's loss and caught fire in the NCAA Tournament. Virginia rattled off wins against SIU-Edwardsville, Brigham Young, Rice and TCU, making its first College Cup since 2014. While the Cavaliers fell to Florida State in penalty kicks in the semifinals, their resilience in the NCAA tournament spoke volumes to the team's character.

Football: Ending the longest losing streak in the history of the Commonwealth Cup in 2019

For much of the 21st century, Virginia Tech football has had Virginia football's number, going on an infamous winning streak of 15 games between 2003 and 2019 that kept the Commonwealth Cup in Blacksburg. In fact, Virginia legends like All-American defensive end Chris Long, All-ACC offensive tackle Morgan Moses and Super Bowl champion safety Juan Thornhill were all unable to get their hands on the Cup during their time with the Cavaliers. However, with the arrival of Coach Bronco Mendenhall on Grounds in



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COURTESY VIRGINIA ATHLETICS

Some of Virginia's greatest comebacks have resulted in hardware for the Cavaliers — including a Commonwealth Cup and multiple national championships.

2016 came a new mentality within the program — to own the state and beat the Cavaliers' blood rival.

The initial years of the Mendenhall era were ones characterized by a meteoric rebuild as the team went from 2-10 in 2016 to 6-7 in 2017 and 8-5 in 2018. While across those three seasons the Cavaliers fell short against the Hokies every year, Virginia Tech's margin of victory grew slimmer and slimmer, going from a 42-point win in 2016 to a 3-point overtime win in 2018. In 2019, however, the tables would turn, as the Cavaliers defeated the Hokies 39-30 in front of a raucous crowd at Scott Stadium to not only win the Commonwealth Cup but also win the ACC Coastal Division for the first time in program history.

Men's lacrosse: Rising from a 2-22 ACC record between 2013 and 2018 to back-to-back national titles in 2019 and 2021

Virginia men's lacrosse has consistently been one of the University's most successful teams, having won seven national championships — with four of those coming in the last 15 years. However, in the final seasons of storied coach Dom Starsia's career between 2013 and 2016, and the early years of current coach Lars Tiffany's reign, the Cavaliers endured one of the worst stretches in team history. Virginia won just two out of its 24 ACC regular-season contests between 2013 and 2018, continually falling against perennial rivals Duke,

North Carolina and Maryland.

However, in 2019, things took a turn for the better for the Cavaliers. While the season started on a low note with losses to Loyola Maryland and High Point, Tiffany found a balance in his squad between his recruits and Starsia's recruits, rattling off seven straight wins — including victories against the likes of Syracuse, Johns Hopkins, and North Carolina — before falling to Duke 12-7. Nonetheless, the loss to the Blue Devils didn't faze Tiffany and company, as they proceeded to not lose a game for the rest of the season — including an NCAA tournament semifinal rematch with Duke — winning both the ACC and NCAA Tournaments. Following a pandemic-shortened 2020 season, the Cavaliers initially struggled, going 2-4 in ACC play in 2021. Nonetheless, they rediscovered their form in the NCAA tournament to win a second consecutive championship in 2021.

Rowing: Losing its first ACC championship in nine years in 2009 to winning two national titles in 2010 and 2012

Virginia rowing has been the epitome of consistency in the collegiate rowing circuit, having won 20 of the 21 ACC championships to date. However, it was that first and only ACC championship loss in 2009 that came at the hands of Clemson that sparked the Cavaliers' rise from a regional to a national power. The arrival of future ACC Freshman of the Year, All-ACC

First Team honoree and Olympian Kristine O'Brien in 2010 turned the tides for the Cavaliers, as O'Brien slotted into the Varsity Eight.

In the 2010 season, O'Brien and the Cavaliers went undefeated, downing the likes of perennial heavyweights Stanford and California. O'Brien, in particular, was a workhorse for the Varsity Eight, leading the boat to a second-place finish in the Varsity Eight category of the NCAA championships and helping the Cavaliers secure their first-ever team rowing national championship. Two years later, O'Brien and the Cavaliers would win a second team national championship and O'Brien would finally secure the elusive Varsity Eight national title, bookending one of the most dominant runs in Virginia rowing history.

Men's basketball: The first one-seed to lose to a 16-seed... and win the national championship the next year

Even the most casual Virginia sports fans are familiar with the story of the 2018-19 Virginia men's basketball squad. During the 2017-18 season, the Cavaliers came into the year with low expectations, having been bounced by No. 4 seed Florida 65-39 in the Round of 32 of the previous year's tournament and starting off unranked in the AP Poll. However, led by redshirt freshman forward DeAndre Hunter, sophomore guards Kyle Guy and Ty Jerome, and the stabilizing veteran presence of sen-

ior forward Isaiah Wilkins, Virginia went 28-2 in the regular season, winning the ACC regular-season title. The Cavaliers continued their dominance in the front end of the post-season, downing ranked Clemson and North Carolina squads to win its first ACC Tournament since 2014. Nonetheless — as many Virginia fans are aware of — the Cavaliers' furious momentum game to a grinding halt in the NCAA Tournament, as they became the first No. 1 seed to fall to a No. 16 seed in the history of the tournament in implosive fashion, losing to UMBC 74-54.

However, in a storyline fit for a Disney movie, the Cavaliers came back with a vengeance in the 2018-19 season. They repeated as ACC regular-season champions, and while Virginia fell to Florida State in the ACC tournament semifinals, it yet again secured a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament. While the circumstances were similar, this year was completely different for the Cavaliers, as they dodged an early challenge from 16-seed Gardner-Webb to advance to the second round. From there, Virginia downed No. 9 Oklahoma with ease and No. 12 Oregon in a low-scoring affair, and then endured a trio of gut-wrenchers against No. 3 Purdue, No. 5 Auburn and No. 3 Texas Tech to win its first-ever national championship.

Women's soccer sets their eyes on first national championship

Following a remarkable 2020-21 campaign, the Cavaliers have not skipped a beat this season

Brandon Brown | Staff Writer



COURTESY VIRGINIA ATHLETICS

Junior forward Diana Ordoñez has been instrumental to the Cavaliers' success this season, netting eight goals on the season.

Virginia women's soccer's 2020-21 campaign saw them earn a College Cup berth for the first time since 2014 and fourth time in team history. The appearance offered Virginia a golden chance at a second national championship appearance following the heartbreak of years past.

In fact, after their quarterfinal victory over TCU, which advanced the Cavaliers to the College Cup, Coach Steve Swanson said, "For us to get to where we've gotten is great. We're proud of that, but we have a bigger goal."

Unfortunately, that bigger goal would not be realized as the Cavaliers fell to FSU in a crushing semifinal penalty shootout.

Fast forward four months and the Cavaliers look to have effortlessly bounced back, starting the season as the No. 4 ranked team in the country. This was emphatically shown from their 8-0 rout of in-state foe Richmond in their season opener. The shutout ex-

tended a streak of five consecutive clean-sheets and saw junior forward Diana Ordoñez continue her prolific run of form with two goals, while four other Cavaliers — including Vanderbilt graduate transfer midfielder Haley Hopkins — joined her on the score-sheet.

Following the Richmond win, the Cavaliers played No. 12 West Virginia, shutting the Mountaineers out and winning thanks to a seventh minute header from none other than Ordoñez.

Swanson's women then went on to beat Commonwealth competitors, George Mason and George Washington 2-0 and 6-1, respectively. The only goal conceded in the dominant win over George Washington snapped the third longest shutout streak in program history at a whopping 776:41, thanks in large part to graduate goalkeeper Laurel Ivory. The Cavaliers then continued their stellar run of form with

wins over defending national champion Santa Clara and JMU.

Virginia's fine run was cut short in a 4-2 loss to No. 14 Penn State. Sophomore midfielder Lia Godfrey and senior forward and midfielder Alexa Spaanstra each provided assists to Ordoñez and chances were plenty, however, short lapses in quality led to goals for the Nittany Lions. While the loss certainly halted the strong momentum the Cavaliers carried from the College Cup, they rebounded against Big 12 opponent Oklahoma. Spaanstra scored from the penalty spot and Godfrey's exceptional work in the midfield saw her record a goal contribution for the fifth consecutive game in this match.

A tough act to please, Swanson acknowledged the victory but was not entirely impressed.

"It was good to get the result, but there is a lot we can get better at," Swanson said.

Nonetheless, the win over

the Sooners improved the Cavaliers' record following a non-season-ending loss to 60-8-13 under Swanson.

Overall, it is safe to say that Virginia's form has hardly dipped from last season. The Cavalier defense and goalkeeping have remained solid as ever, the midfield is providing and the offensive firepower, led by Ordoñez, continues to be bountiful. That being said, firing on all six cylinders at the right time is key for the Cavaliers' postseason success, which Swanson is no stranger to.

While the Cavaliers are on a tear now, Swanson has proven he can coach a team through to the finish line, having led Virginia to three College Cups and two ACC Championships. In fact, one thing you will notice about Swanson is he rarely over-praises — he harps on consistency over results and often notes areas to work on in his post-game interviews.

In particular, after the 6-1 crushing of George Washington, Swanson said, "I think everyone can see the potential this team has, but we have to get better in certain areas."

It is this pursuit of absolute perfection that shows Swanson still has his eyes intently on the "bigger goal" — a national championship.

This group of women have shown true character to pick up where they left off. With postseason play a little over a month away — as the ACC Tournament begins Oct. 31 — the Cavaliers have 10 games to continue to build towards a peak postseason performance. A near-perfect record thus far and the imminent improvements from Swanson make this season's prospects all the more exciting. If the team can come together at the right time, there is no reason why the heights of last year cannot be attained, if not improved.

OPINION

LEAD EDITORIAL

U.Va. must protect students and fans in Scott Stadium

The University must ensure it keeps fans safe in the midst of the ongoing pandemic

Weekends in Charlottesville are starting to resemble a time before COVID-19 — students are taking beloved trips to Carter's Mountain Orchard, the Corner is packed with business and Scott Stadium is filling the hill with hardly a mask in sight. The caveat, of course, is we are not in a time without COVID-19 — case numbers and hospital admissions this semester alone demonstrate the continuing threat of the pandemic. Even without universal testing and with a nearly fully vaccinated student body, the University has seen 522 cases this semester. More alarming, though, is the University's hospital admissions data — less than two weeks ago, we saw 16 hospital admissions related to COVID-19, a number equal to the peak at the beginning of this year. Still, the University seems to be operating under the idea that COVID-19 will not spread in Scott Stadium.

The University's mask policy for football games requires unvaccinated people to wear masks at all times and everyone — regardless of vaccination

status — to wear masks in indoor spaces in the stadium. The University even urged students to wear masks outdoors while watching the game. However, there was little enforcement. Over 36,000 people packed into Scott Stadium for each of the past two home games — these games have the potential to become superspreader events and wreak havoc on the Charlottesville and University communities. We urge administration to require proof of vaccination status or a negative COVID-19 test for entry into future games — from both students and community members — and to continue to urge universal masking at all times in all areas of Scott Stadium.

Late last month, Oregon and Oregon State became the first Power Five Schools to require proof of vaccination status or a negative COVID-19 test for those over 12 years old to enter games. The negative test result must be from within three days of the game. These schools, however, are not alone. Louisiana State University President William Tate said in a statement that LSU

will require proof of vaccination status or a negative COVID-19 test within the past 72 hours. "As the flagship institution of the state of Louisiana, our foremost responsibility is to ensure the safety of our students, our supporters, and our community," Tate said. This monumental decision made LSU the first SEC school to mandate COVID-19 precautions for football games, allowing them to lead by example in a region with relatively low vaccination rates. The University should learn from these programs and prioritize safety. We have an opportunity and responsibility to promote COVID-19 awareness. This can start in Scott Stadium.

Further, University administration cannot require students to attend in-person classes wearing masks if they are not willing to enforce the same mandates at football games. It is hypocritical and naive to think COVID-19 can spread in a class of 15 students but not in a stadium packed with tens of thousands of people from across the country. While we acknowl-

edge an outdoor environment such as Scott Stadium has better air ventilation than a University classroom, the capacity of the stadium coupled with the proximity of guests to one another makes the event potentially dangerous. Not to mention, the majority of season ticket holders are over 50 years of age, making them more likely to become seriously ill, especially with the rising concern of the Delta variant. Thus, the University should encourage universal masking on top of requiring either proof of vaccination status or a recent negative COVID-19 test to enter the stadium. The University also needs to better enforce its masking requirement for unvaccinated guests, which includes clarifying the lines between indoor and outdoor spaces in the stadium.

Schools like Liberty University temporarily transitioned to online instruction for a two-week period in an attempt to curb increasing positive cases. This came after their lack of vaccine requirements and mask mandates. Since returning to a hybrid

in-person learning environment, they now encourage — but do not require — masks on campus, with no mention of a vaccine mandate. This should serve as a lesson to the University to take masking requirements, vaccine status and COVID-19 testing seriously, especially for major events such as football games.

Allowing guests to come into the stadium without taking any precautions to ensure the safety of those around them is reckless and irresponsible. The University needs to do its part in protecting members of both the University and Charlottesville communities by requiring proof of vaccination status or a negative COVID test within the past 72 hours in order to enter Scott Stadium. This will not only ensure the longevity of the season and a continuance of in-person instruction, but it will also increase safety measures in the stadium so that fans can focus on enjoying the game they came to watch. The University has an opportunity to guide others through its behavior instead of its words.

THE CAVALIER DAILY

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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What our monuments teach us

When we raise someone onto a pedestal, we are effectively transforming them from a man into a myth — a good intentioned process which is almost always harmful

I am a middle-class white kid who grew up in the South. As one often does when in my situation, I consistently took the existence of monuments dedicated to historical figures for granted. I believed that they unquestionably perpetuated the legacies of great men. After all, why would anyone seek to memorialize a person who didn't make overwhelmingly positive contributions to our society?

As I grew older and began to take an interest in the history of my country, I started to think more deeply about the monuments surrounding me and what they represented. I also became increasingly aware of the effort to tear many of them down. I chalked this desire up to a myopic brand of revisionist history welling up within our society. My childhood education supported this notion, claiming that the men immortalized on pedestals across our nation were a force for good in their time. This revisionism seemed completely illogical to me, as my preconceptions about the supposed total morality of these figures was yet to be challenged.

That all changed recently. I am a

student at the University, and by extension a resident of Charlottesville — a city which finds itself at the core of national conversations about the significance of monuments and the ongoing push for their removal. In recent months, statues of Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and Lewis and Clark have all been removed from the vicinity of the University, a move I have perceived to be general-

slavery be seen as heroes by those whose heritage is enslavement? I have finally questioned the previously indisputable morality of many of these figures and found that they do not measure up.

Of course, this should come as no surprise. Cultural standards shift, and they do so for good reason. One need only point to very recent and sudden changes in Ameri-

a myth. With mythological stature comes an expectation beyond that of what a human can possibly measure up to. This standard of perfection to which we hold the subjects of our monuments is unrealistic, and it is harmful. It creates resentment in both those who seek to defy such people, and those who seek to tear them down.

Before we rip our monuments

but also the good. It should be understood that the opposite can be equally true — that to topple a monument is not always to vilify it. Rather, it is brought down to represent the imperfect nature of its subject.

This lesson in imperfection is ironically inverse to the flawless monuments surrounding us. If we continue to build new ones without understanding the implications which accompany them, future generations will look on our depictions with disgust just as we scorn those of our predecessors. Monuments perpetuate myths — something I have experienced firsthand in my obsessive reverence to historical figures like Jefferson. This in turn creates the same false expectation of total morality which I naively accepted as a child. No person can claim to be totally good, and in a society which expects perfection from its monumental figures, no legacy can survive.

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To many of us, these antiquated statues represent a constant reminder of times when cruel men ruled with iron fists over those they sought to subjugate.

ly celebrated by my fellow students.

To many of us, these antiquated statues represent a constant reminder of times when cruel men ruled with iron fists over those they sought to subjugate. The longer I have spent surrounded by this perspective, the more I have begun to understand it. After all, while I can never claim to experience the feelings my peers have shared with me, their claims make perfect sense. How could men who fought for

ca's idea of morality to exhibit this. The bar is constantly raised within our society, and though the pursuit of social justice is largely beneficial, it can sometimes lead to excessively intense criticisms.

This is what our monuments have taught me — that people exalted for nobility in the past are unlikely to be as easily accepted in the present. When we raise someone onto a pedestal, we are effectively transforming them from a man into

down — a process which I am all for in many cases — we should pause for a moment and think about what they can teach us. We should closely examine the context of their creation. While many monuments were erected mainly as a means of intimidation of the oppressed, some — such as the statue of Thomas Jefferson residing on Grounds — have very legitimate claims for existence. This means accepting not only the evils committed by these figures,

Striving toward a perfect union

The removal of the Robert E. Lee statue should inspire further action, such as confronting the University's role in Virginia's twentieth-century eugenics program

In a recent interview, James Grossman of the American Historical Association made an important point regarding Charlottesville's recently-removed Robert E. Lee statue — that it was erected in 1924, decades after the fall of the Confederacy. Grossman describes this fact as a "hint" that the monument was not erected to commemorate benevolent southern traditions but rather to "legitimat[e] and perpetuat[e] ideas and structures of race that, in the 1920s, had burrowed themselves into Southern culture."

Grossman's point is further evidenced by the fact that, the same year the Lee statue was erected, Virginia enacted two pieces of legislation — the Racial Integrity Act and the Sterilization Act — which would undergird a eugenic program responsible for the forced sterilization of 7,200 to 8,300 people who were "deemed by society at the time to be unworthy or unfit to procreate." The removal of the statue, therefore, marked a significant symbolic victory that was aptly met with celebration.

However, the statue's removal has also elicited tempered reminders that there is still work to be done. For example, Grossman called removal of the Lee statue a sign of

progress only "if you have a very low bar as to what progress is," voicing concern that removing statues, rather than changing "laws, attitudes, and institutions," "might be seen as enough." Jessica Moore's column in *The Cavalier Daily* reminded us that, despite increasing awareness of social justice issues, it "is not the time to stop fighting for equality." And as the Lee statue came down,

The University should grapple with its role in the eugenics program that accompanied the erection of the Robert E. Lee statue.

Mayor Nikuyah Walker emphasized that, while we were taking "one step closer," that "we are so far from the perfect union."

In the spirit of taking more steps toward the "perfect union" Walker describes, the University should grapple with its role in the eugenic program that accompanied the erection of the Robert E. Lee statue. In 2001, the Virginia General Assembly condemned the Racial Integrity and Sterilization acts for having provided "a respectable, 'scientific' veneer to cover activities of those who held blatantly racist views." But a less-ac-

knowledge fact is that the University was pivotal in maintaining this veneer — as historian Gregory Dorr has noted, the University served as "an epicenter of eugenical thought, closely linked with the national eugenics movement and with the Virginia antimiscegenation movement and tied to the state mental health professionals who promoted eugenic sterilization."

University President Edwin Alderman, in keeping with a despicable pledge made in his inaugural speech to uphold "the solemn obligations of racial integrity," helped make the University this eugenic "epicenter." During his tenure, the Alderman Library namesake promoted eugenicists such as Harvey Ernest Jordan and Ivey Foreman Lewis to top University positions.

During this time period, the University was churning out young proponents of biological racism and eugenics, offering classes such as Lewis's Biology Cr: Heredity and

Eugenics. In one Biology Cr paper written in 1934, a student argued that, "In Germany, Hitler has decreed that about 400,000 persons be sterilized. This is a great step in eliminating the mental deficient." A 1931 paper, which Lewis deemed worthy of an A, advocated for eugenics on the grounds that "the future holds the indication that the population, in relatively few years,

will be poisoned [and] average intelligence will take a drop."

And echoes of the scientific racism reflected in Biology Cr can still be heard today — even on national television. For example, political scientist Charles Murray, who appeared as a guest on a June 2021 episode of "Tucker Carlson Today," has — in the apt words of University of Pennsylvania professor Adolph Reed Jr. — popularized ideas that threaten to "presage the return of an updated version of the Lamarckian race theory popular a century ago." For example, Murray's most pop-

ular work, "The Bell Curve," poses a hereditarian argument alarmingly similar to that made in the above-mentioned 1931 Biology Cr paper — Murray claims that, due to their genetic inferiority, "Latino and black immigrants are...putting some downward pressure on the distribution of intelligence."

So, while the statue of Robert E. Lee has justly been taken down, the scientific racism that accompanied its erection still has its monuments, both literal — such as in our commemorations of Alderman — and figurative — such as in Murray's hereditarianism. This fact demonstrates the prescience of Moore's point that "variations of racism are continually recreated" and must be continuously fought against. Here on Grounds, an obvious first step in confronting the University's history of eugenics would be to rename Alderman library. Beyond Grounds, we should heed Walker, Moore and Grossman's reminders that there is still work to be done by, among other things, combating scientific racism whenever it rears its ugly head.

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HUMOR

Which U.Va. cult should you join?

I'm really not sure why there's all this advice going around for first years and new students to join "clubs" to feel like they belong. Everyone knows that to really feel a part of the University, you have to be super involved — read: exhausted and overworked. Joining some random GroupMe and showing up to meetings once a week isn't going to cut it here. What do you think this is, William & Mary?

In order to be a "real" U.Va. student, you have to join a cult that sucks up every last second of your free time, uses weird lingo that isolates you from the rest of the University population and makes it impossible for you to get a job after graduation because there was no time for frivolous things like "internships" or "work experience" or "midterms."

If you're still unsure of which cult you'd like to join, no wor-

ries! This handy-dandy guide will break them down faster than you can say "why would I be a tour guide for free?"

Greek Life

Do you want to prove how masculine and alpha you are by being degraded by older men? Do you need an excuse to hang out exclusively with rich white people that only sounds *kinda* racist? Do you just want to pay for friends so you don't have to try to be interesting or likeable? Well, Greek Life will be the perfect fit for you! And, unlike other U.Va. cults, there's no need to worry about a rigorous application process! As long as you have a large sum of money and a low amount of self-respect, you'll get in no problem!

U.Va. Twitter

Are you someone who needs

validation from total strangers online but aren't conventionally attractive enough for Instagram? Are you willing to spill intimate details for a few likes? Do you have a surface level understanding of political and social issues and need to be praised for it? If you answered yes to any of those questions, U.Va. Twitter is the cult for you. Just be careful — there's some real weirdos on there.

Pre-Meds

At first glance, this group isn't super culty. After all, their main past-time is complaining about being pre-med and swearing they're going to drop every five minutes until they realize they can't do anything else with a biology major. Still, their obsession with studying strange symbols — I believe they call it organic chemistry — plus the de-

cision to commit 10-plus years to climb the ranks of their cult is worrisome. Combined with their insistence that they want to "help people" — despite never volunteering, donating money or taking out the trash for their roommates ONE TIME — makes me think there's a lot more to this cult than meets the eye.

Stud Co

Do you like wearing formal attire, using weird phrases like "hereby be it said" and drafting resolutions for things you have no power to actually solve? Do you want to cosplay as a politician before you have a chance to get educated on the issues? Stud Co is the perfect place for people like you, or for anyone who just needs a niche leadership role that sounds impressive even if nobody knows what they actually do —

like Vice Chair of Legislative Affairs. Yes, that's a real position!

Cav Daily

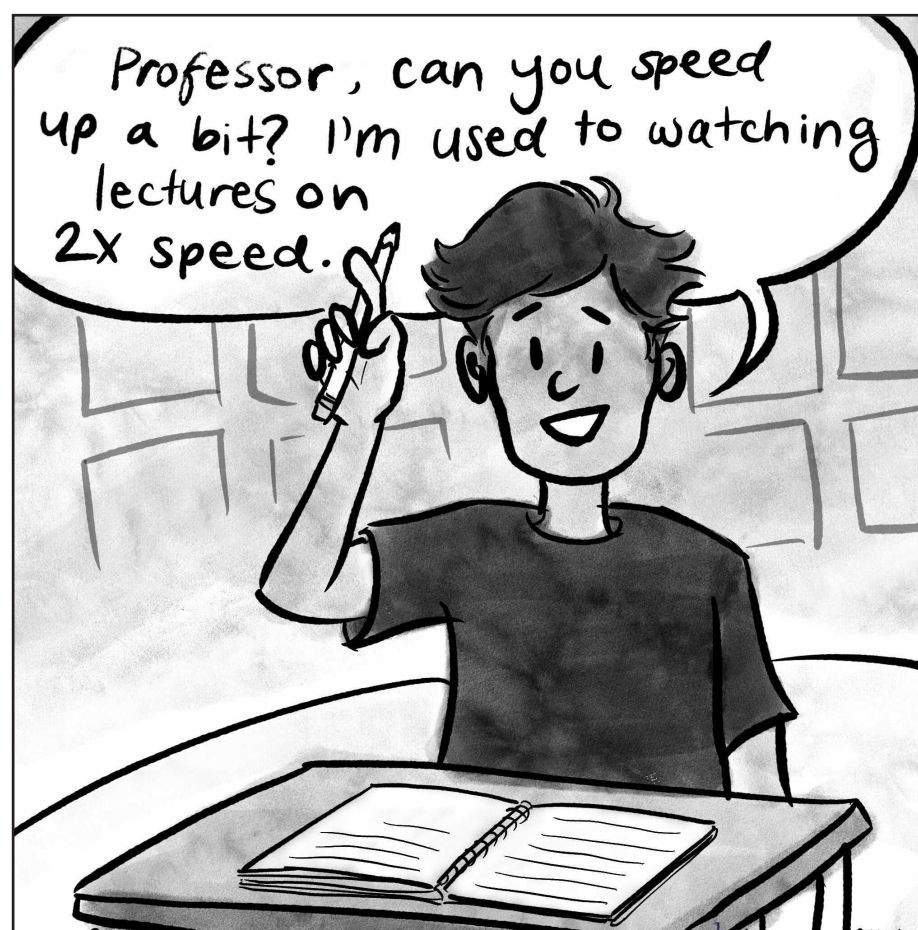
Speaking of people who like talking more than doing, why not get involved in student journalism? Cav Daily has produced some of the best articles I've ever read, even if they are only read by 5 people (including my mother). But we don't do it for the glory — we do it for the ego-boost of seeing our words in a real-life newspaper. On the bright side, all members of this cult are truly wonderful — minus the humor editor, who thinks he's a lot funnier than he really is.

ESHAAN SARUP is the Humor editor for The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at e.sarup@cavalierdaily.com

CARTOON

COVID-19 Adaptions

Ruma Jadhav | Cartoonist



PUZZLES

WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Abby Sacks | Puzzle Master

* THE SOLUTION TO THIS PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- Across**
- 1 Opposite of evens.
 - 3 In Greek mythology, a Titan and mother of Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades.
 - 6 In The Catcher in the Rye, Holden Caulfield thinks that everyone is one of these.
 - 10 Outer layer of skin.
 - 11 Theoretical physicist who discovered the exclusion principle.
 - 12 Fourth song on the second disc of Beyonce’s 2013 album. (Two words)
 - 13 The fashion event of the year. (Two words)
 - 14 The sister of your mother or father.
 - 16 A paddler at the front of a boat.
 - 18 “_____ the end of the world as we know it.”
 - 21 Garden tool used to break up soil.
 - 22 Rebellion of a crew against its captain.
 - 23 Window to pick up food, drive-_____.
 - 25 To compel one to follow a rule.
 - 27 American designer who shares a last name with the inventor of the assembly line. (Two words)
 - 29 A typewriter is an example of a _____ of the past.
 - 30 IT security company named after a type of fish with sharp teeth.
 - 31 Synthetic fiber usually made from plant pulp.
 - 32 Promising; a reddish or pink complexion.
 - 33 _____-exposure effect: when people prefer certain things solely because of familiarity with them.

- Down**
- 1 Governments can do this when they extend their influence beyond the limits of the law.
 - 2 To do something reluctantly that is beneath oneself.
 - 4 Used in wartime to refer to civilian support or conditions. (Two words)
 - 5 Northeastern Indian state.
 - 6 A larva becoming a pupa.
 - 7 Easily shocked or made uncomfortable at the sight of unpleasant things.
 - 8 Indian yogurt and cucumber side dish.
 - 9 Protruding join in a piece of wood that connects to other pieces.
 - 15 Doing something in a needy or necessary way.
 - 17 During the medieval period, he was a type of heavily-armed, horse-riding soldier.
 - 19 This is depicted on the cover of the Arctic Monkeys’ album AM. (Two words)
 - 20 Someone born or living in the United States.
 - 24 In gynecology, also called a Pap test.
 - 25 Trial and _____.
 - 26 In the novel by Jeanne DuPrau, it is the city of this.
 - 28 In flowers, it is the part which contains the female germ cell.

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* SOLUTION FROM SEPT. 2 ISSUE

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

‘We Hope This Art Finds You Well’ impresses

New Exhibit from WTJU and The Bridge showcases local artists’ experiences over the past two years

Isabel Junker | Staff Writer

“We Hope This Art Finds You Well” is a small slice of hope in trying times. Everything about the COVID-19 pandemic is tiring — hearing about it, talking about it and living through it is exhausting. Why spend any time looking for anything of value to hang onto here and there when you’d rather just forget about it altogether? Presented by WTJU, “We Hope This Art Finds You Well” does the effort for you in a two-part exhibition — one part online and one part in-person — which forms a beautiful as well as educational experience showcasing the perseverance of local artists over the pandemic.

The online portion of the exhibit is described as a living repository of audio recordings, videos, photos and texts that will grow over the next few months. The first thing you see when you enter the site is a big reminder to keep coming back to see more art focused on COVID-19-related hardships. These hardships only make life more confusing and trying than usual, so having a place to come back to for solace that will keep providing new and interesting content is fitting.

This online gallery, maintained by both WTJU and The Bridge Progressive Arts Initiative, promises to be an inclusive platform for artists in the community and their memories of these past 18 months. As of now, the website introduces 21 artists and highlights many local art initiatives. And although the website is a wonderful resource for anyone interested in what artists in their community have been up to recently, it’s not a substitute for the physical show. If you live in the Charlottesville area, visiting the gallery should be a priority.

The exhibition itself is packed into a refurbished antique camper made into a gallery, located behind the WTJU radio station on Ivy Road. Inside is a small room with both walls covered in artist profiles with a big blue couch at the rear of the van. The entire aesthetic of the gallery is heartwarming, but the most charming parts are the details spread all around this small space. On every surface — the windowsills, the wooden boards holding up artwork, even the floor — there are either masks or bottles of hand sanitizer. As pandemic-related objects like these have become normal in our personal spaces, the sanitary decor feels like a comforting piece of home.

The exhibition itself covers an array of topics from music to activism to graphic design, and the van hous-

es the personal stories and artwork from Charlottesville artists. These artists use their respective talents to express grief, hope, humor, struggle and memory in unconventional ways.

Warren Craghead’s preferred medium is graphic posters that deliver timely and blunt messages to the public. In 2020 he wanted to spread awareness about the issues which mattered most to him. He ended up plastering posters that read, “DOWN WITH THE PANDEMIC BOYS,” “SCIENCE IS REAL, WEAR A MASK” and “YOU’RE GONNA DIE IF YOU DON’T GET VAXXED,” with corresponding cartoons all over town, making his views very clear. Craghead emphasizes the importance of repetition in his work — of continuing to draw and write and edit until he’s left with what he really wants to say. It was refreshing to see someone so aggressively encourage people to take health precautions, as if he’s saying, “Your selfishness be damned, do what you know is right.”

One of the most creative installations in the van was the blue couch pushed against the back wall. The “Comfort Couch,” as it is known, is an amalgamation of many of the featured artists’ sentiments on dealing with boredom during the pandemic. At the start of the pandemic, both guests and artists alike suddenly found themselves spending most of their time on their couches. One artist said they started using their time to sit and listen to music they once loved, specifically REM’s “Automatic for the People.” Another reported a sharp increase in reading books and another in cooking at home. One said they began a habit of birdwatching from their couch. The “Comfort Couch” is surrounded by windows and little objects that represent the moments of peace they found during the pandemic. There’s even a little birdhouse with a faux canary on the other side of the back couch window so visitors can take on birdwatching for the day too.

On the theme of comfort, WTJU’s own Nathan Moore curated a “Charlottesville Quarantine Jams” playlist to share some joy and camaraderie with the exhibition’s visitors. Additionally, Ivan Orr emphasized the power of music during troubled times. His installation explores the both difficult and rewarding transition into making music during the pandemic. In the beginning of the pandemic, Orr spent his time experimenting with virtual performances with a series of covers. He was one



ISABEL JUNKER | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The exhibition is packed into a refurbished antique camper made into a gallery, located behind the WTJU radio station.

of the first virtual musicians on the local scene, collaborating frequently with The Front Porch and WTJU in a “Save the Music” series. Orr wanted to keep performing, even with a crisis at hand, saying, “With everyone at home, that means everyone is theoretically accessible.” Even under the gravest of circumstances it is still vital to prioritize the arts.

Two of the biggest themes on display in the exhibit were accessibility and justice. The entire van had a philosophy similar to Orr’s — art shouldn’t be barred from anyone. Every installation had a barcode to scan so that any visitor could immediately have access to an extended portfolio of a particular artist’s work. The exhibition grabs people’s interest, and then they can go home with additional resources to learn more about each artist’s causes. Additionally, though seeing the exhibition is preferable to simply browsing the website, having online access to the exhibit is an advantage that most art exhibits don’t have. “We Hope This Art Finds You Well” is widely available to most people who want to experience it — and that in and of itself is worth celebrating.

Furthermore, the pandemic has both exacerbated and brought attention to many problems in America,

specifically racism and police brutality, and multiple artists featured in the exhibition used their platforms to express their stances on these issues.

Leslie Scott-Jones — a writer, singer, actor, director, producer and artistic director of the Charlottesville Player’s Guild — approaches her art from an Africana perspective. Her mission is to create more room for those whose stories have previously been ignored, and she works to create opportunities for Black artists. Her installation highlighted that she works with the Guild to “make sure every Black artist knows what it is like to be within a completely Black space.” During the pandemic, Jones even penned her own play called “Thirty-Seven,” which shares a Black man’s internal struggle with becoming involved in activism and his frustration with the constant battle of being Black in America.

The exhibition also features the work of Ezé Amos, a Charlottesville documentary photographer and photojournalist who is particularly interested in street photography. His installation featured many of his photos from his time protesting against police brutality in the summer of 2020. Accompanying these pictures is a quote by Amos on why

he decided to warn protestors of an oncoming police raid while he was on the job — the quote reads, “I’m not neutral. I’ll be telling you a big lie if I tell you I go to these events photographing this protest as neutral. Yes, my profession tells me I should just take the photo and tell the story. But where is that story coming from? From what perspective? Last I checked, I’m still Black.”

The protests that erupted in 2020 and still continue today are a part of history, and for this exhibition to be a true time capsule of recent years, these movements’ impacts have to be recorded. The exhibition not only records this history but does so from the perspective of the passionate people who value standing up for what’s right over maintaining artistic objectivity.

“We Hope This Art Finds You Well” makes the pandemic less of a burden to think about. It frames the last two years as a time filled with not only loss and strife but also power and change — and it reminds us that this dichotomy is something we should all continue to grapple with, not ignore. And, at the end of the day, it’s a reminder that there are those special people who will always be able to make something beautiful out of tragedy.

A behind the scenes look at upcoming Arts Week

How Student Council organized the inaugural event amidst an ongoing pandemic

Olivia Garrone | Staff Writer

Student Council will be hosting the University's first Arts Week — an entire week devoted to showcasing the various manifestations of the Arts on Grounds — from Sept. 27 to Oct. 1. A diverse collection of arts-related CIOs, departments and career resources will be featured in this interactive series of free events for students.

Abby Rothenberg, fourth-year Batten and Education student, has been leading the charge of this massive project as the director of the Student Council Arts Agency.

"Our main goal with this week is to really highlight and celebrate the arts at UVa. broadly, but also really showcase the diversity and depth of opportunities in the arts both at UVa. and beyond," Rothenberg said.

Furthermore, she hopes the week will help students find opportunities that connect to their personal interests as well as career goals in the arts at UVa and beyond.

This year's lineup includes a wide variety of organizations and departments across grounds, from an a cappella showcase to career panels to a

comedy workshop. There's even a social night complete with live music to cap it all off in the same celebratory spirit the series aims to embody.

Naturally, putting together a series of this scale takes extensive planning. The idea was first born last spring by Christina Jiang, Student Council Arts Agency member and fourth-year McIntire and College student. Jiang's idea struck a chord with the rest of the Arts Agency — while opportunities in disciplines such as engineering and commerce are frequently highlighted, professions in the arts have been historically overlooked. So, the group hopes to fill this gap and spread awareness of the opportunity that lies in the arts and the joy that it brings.

Ever since Jiang's idea took off, the Arts Agency has been hard at work building the lineup of festivities from the ground up.

"We spent a large majority of our summer doing continuous outreach [and] really fleshing out ideas," Rothenberg said.

Step one was coordination and outreach through establishing part-

nerships with different arts groups at the University.

"We reached out to pretty much every arts-related CIO on grounds that we could think of," Rothenberg said.

Digging around to find the emails of each organization, they recruited groups interested in getting involved and listened to their respective visions for potential events.

Common themes emerged in what the CIOs wanted to showcase, spurring the idea for some of the larger collaborative events featured in the Arts Week series — theater groups are collectively featured during Monday's Theater Panel, dance CIOs connect for both a meet and greet as well as a performance on Tuesday and a capella groups come together in a showcase for a cappella performance night on Thursday.

Beyond clubs, the Arts Committee also reached out to the University's various arts departments and career center hubs. They ultimately booked a walkthrough with the Architecture school and an Arts Internship Panel with the University Career

Center, among other opportunities.

Of course, planning an event of this scale in the midst of a lingering pandemic has not been without its difficulties. With the ever fluctuating state of COVID-19 itself, public health recommendations and University policies, changes have had to be made along the way.

When the University's temporary mask mandate was extended, the plans for an a cappella performance night had to be re-evaluated.

"We don't want the singers to have to perform in masks because that affects breathing [and] it affects vocal quality," Rothenberg said. "We were like, okay, we've got to kind of adjust so we can make sure those [events] are safe but still can be what we want them to be."

Fortunately, the team found a solution — moving the performances to an outdoor venue, Grassy Bowl.

"COVID-19 has definitely posed a challenge, but I'm proud of everyone's ability to adapt and adjust," Rothenberg said.

Recently, the Arts Committee has been able to move on to the next

phase of preparation.

"I've been working with the marketing team — we have graphics, flyers, brochures [and] a little bit of everything," Rothenberg said. "We're finally in the stage where everything is set; we're just trying to get the word out there as much as possible."

With the big week finally on the horizon, the Arts Committee should be able to bask in their well-deserved accomplishment and enjoy the action-packed schedule of events they curated soon enough. As for the future, keep Arts Week in mind — Oct. 1 should not be the last time students hear about this celebration of the Arts. Student Council hopes to make Arts Week an annual occasion.

"I want Arts Week to be a name that everybody knows," Rothenberg said. She hopes it will become a University staple that students look forward to each fall. "That is our ultimate goal. And I think we can get there, it's just gonna take time."

For details on specific events and the full Arts Week schedule, see Student Council's website. Note that select events require pre-registration.

First Year Players finds community amid chaos

The long-standing theater organization preps for performance in person, once again

Joanna Ashley Clark | Senior Writer

First Year Players — or FYP as it is familiarly known around Grounds — was founded in 1977 and is the University's largest student-run theater CIO. But keeping a performance organization running over the last year and a half hasn't been easy, especially an organization dedicated to reaching out to new students. Scheduling a changing cast, tech crew and pit is a challenge on its own, but when you factor in the limitations of the pandemic, it becomes even more difficult. FYP has managed to stick it out though. Last year they put on a filmed production of "Singin' in the Rain," and this year, they are diving back into the world of in-person performance with the mystery musical comedy "Curtains."

"I couldn't stop hearing, 'It's an honor and a joy to be in show business ... the show must go on,'" said Aubrey Hill, "Curtains" director and fourth-year College student. "At its heart, 'Curtains' is about the joy of putting on a musical amidst chaos, uncertainty and fear. Sound familiar? Everyone, whether a first year or a fourth year, is going to be coming to UVa. in the fall with new expecta-

tions for an amazing semester."

After enduring a year without live theater, Hill said everyone is ready to get back to working on an in-person production.

"'Curtains' deeply reflects the values of FYP," Hill said. "This show is about perseverance and the love for theatre being at the root of all performers ... 'Curtains' is about falling in love, meeting new people, resolving conflict, solving a mystery and being a show person."

Perseverance and finding community amongst artists seems to be at the heart of FYP and one of the reasons the organization has stuck around for so long. As a club devoted to welcoming first-years onto Grounds and helping with their transition into the University community, it is important to instill that sense of resilience and love for your environment straight out of the gate. But that attitude does not have to end after your first year — there are many ways to get involved after your introduction to FYP.

"We are a theater organization, but I feel like the primary goal and interest of everyone is to create a safe

artistic space and community for first-years," said Caitlin Woodford, current FYP choreographer and fourth-year College student. "I think past first year, it becomes a way to give back to that same principle that helped you get welcomed into college — everyone wanting to kind of pay it forward, that welcoming environment."

Creating such an environment is no small feat, especially when part of the theater experience is auditioning, where you either get a callback or you do not. When it comes to dealing with rejection and maintaining such a positive environment, it seems there is always a space for first-years in FYP, even if it's not on stage.

"No matter what section you end up joining — cast, tech or pit — there's always a way to get involved," Woodford said. "I think everyone knows how hard it is to feel rejection from those sorts of things, so everyone is there to support you and be kind no matter what. And so I think it really creates a resilient community, because having to deal with the stress of memorizing lines or memorizing music or figuring out how

to design the lighting for different scenes — it takes a lot of teamwork and collaboration."

When it comes to creating such a supportive environment, a lot of the welcoming energy must come from the top down. It would be tough to have an organization that encourages first years to feel comfortable on Grounds without the structure and dependence on upperclassmen who want to stick around. A significant comfort for first years and transfer students trying to get their start in the theater community on Grounds comes from the willingness to make and correct mistakes.

"We're all learning from each other, and so even though some of us have a little more experience than others, we're all still learning through collaboration and having a shared creative purpose," Woodford said.

For Woodford and FYP, the transition from virtual back to in-person has enabled a reflection on the organization's direction and allowed room for growth.

"There might be some things that weren't working as well when they started and now we have a blank

slate to do things the way we think they should be done," Woodford said.

Recovering from the pandemic together is easier said than done, but finding a community on Grounds that can support you in that process is incredibly valuable. Through the arts here at the University, whether that's visiting an exhibit at the Fralin, auditioning for a play, participating in an open mic night or going to see an a cappella performance, you might be able to tap into that energy of community, of group effort and enthusiasm. The arts community has made it through the performance drought and isolation of the last year and a half and is ready to start supporting each other even more.

"The arts community at UVa. truly loves what they do, and it makes us a resilient group of people," Hill said. "We all love the arts, and we have all been itching to get back into a performance space ... It's truly an amazing community of people, and I feel lucky to be a part of it every day."

"Curtains" opens Nov. 19 through 21 in the Student Activities Building.

HEALTH & SCIENCE

Beyond Gen Z: A generation emerges from pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting virtual education of young children may shape the way their generation develops

Esha Fateh | Staff Writer

After a year of online schooling, the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic loom before children. The inequalities between resources that existed for children of different socioeconomic backgrounds before the pandemic exacerbated transitions to virtual education and may impact children's educational development for months and years to come.

As members of Generation Z — which the Pew Research Center defines as individuals born after 1996 — come into adulthood, demographic researchers turn to define the next generation. Without an official name for the next generation, there is ambiguity over where Generation Z ends and the next one begins. Following the fifteen-year period that identifies Millennials as individuals born between 1981 and 1996, the logical cut off year for Generation Z is 2011, meaning that the older members of this generation are still in early elementary school.

The COVID-19 pandemic is likely the first significant event that members of the newest generation will recall as they age. Similarly, members of Generation Z were around the same age as the children of the newest generation when the recession of 2008 occurred.

Teresa Sullivan, George M. Kaufman Presidential Professor of Sociology and former University president, said she believes that the pandemic-inflicted economic downturn may be more disruptive for children than that of the 2008 recession, however.

After her tenure as University president from 2010 to 2018, Sullivan

served as interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Michigan State University, before returning to the University as a sociology department faculty member. Her expertise now specializes in labor force demographics and the sociology of work.

"The recession was really bad for working adults who lost their jobs," Sullivan said. "The children didn't have their schooling interrupted ... and so that anchor to daily life was there. That's not there right now."

Thanks to the pandemic, schools — a key pillar of early childhood development — were transformed overnight. Over the past 16 months, schools have shifted from traditional classes to home-based virtual learning, leading to numerous impacts. According to surveys conducted by the United States Department of Education on grades 4 and 8, 24 percent of all fourth-graders were still participating in remote courses in May 2021, another 24 percent were in a hybrid setting and the remaining 52 percent were attending in person.

From an educational standpoint, teachers and parents have struggled to provide adequate home instruction for children while behind screens.

Commonwealth Prof. of Education Sara Rimm-Kaufman studies the social and psychological experiences of elementary and middle school children. She lamented the academic and social skills gaps that will emerge even when students return to classrooms.

"There's going to be social and emotional skill gaps," Rimm-Kaufman

said. "They're missing some emotional skills that they would learn in school like tolerating frustration."

Rimm-Kaufman also expressed concern for children with special needs and English language learners as they were more likely to fall behind due to limited services available online.

This preludes a larger issue that is plaguing schools across the country — the digital divide, which refers to the lack of access that many children face due to lack of internet at home. According to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, about 40 percent of lower income parents reported that their children need to rely on public Wi-Fi and an additional 36 percent believe that their children will not be able to complete work due to a lack of computer access. Additionally, numerous districts struggle with funding for personal equipment needed to provide for online learning to all students. There have been efforts to narrow the divide by expanding funding to internet access, but those efforts have not succeeded in eliminating it yet.

Rimm-Kaufman noted that inequities that existed before the pandemic started have grown.

"Kids who had advantages beforehand are often still experiencing many of those advantages during the pandemic," Rimm-Kaufman said. "Kids who had fewer advantages beforehand are living under more dire and more stressed situations."

Abiding by social distancing protocol and government recommendations to remain home if a trip outside the home was not necessary, many

children lacked exposure to peers and spent much of their time at home.

For children with access to mobile devices, a source of entertainment was streaming service platforms. Such platforms are characterized by their selective on-demand viewing that provides the viewer freedom to choose the content they want to consume. Programs may deliver content in a biased manner, preventing viewers from learning about other perspectives.

Andrea Press, a media studies and sociology professor who studies the impact of media on culture, noted the effect this has on children.

"Scholars find that it leads to a real insular form of accessing information so that we are not exposed to opinions that disagree with convictions we already have," Press said. "We have a lot of polarization right now on these issues and a part of that is media choice ... and children are growing up used to that."

With the lack of in-person schooling, children cannot meet with those who have backgrounds different from theirs and enrich their knowledge about diverse perspectives.

Additionally, working mothers have had to struggle balancing their careers with taking care of their children due to daycare and school closures.

"We've had the largest withdrawal of women from the labor force since the end of World War Two ... principally for childcare reasons," Sullivan said.

The RAND Corporation cited that based on data collected from the U.S.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, women in the workforce dropped by 2.2 million in October 2020 in comparison to October of the previous year.

Children are watching their parents grapple with changes in different ways based on their socioeconomic status at the start of the pandemic and subsequent changes due to job loss.

"[Children] watched the gendered division of labor in action ... maybe it will have a regressive impact on what their vision is of the gender division of labor," Press said.

There has been growing awareness surrounding the struggles for working mothers as a result of the pandemic — in February, National Public Radio reported that employers offered flexible shifts and relocation to branches closer to home.

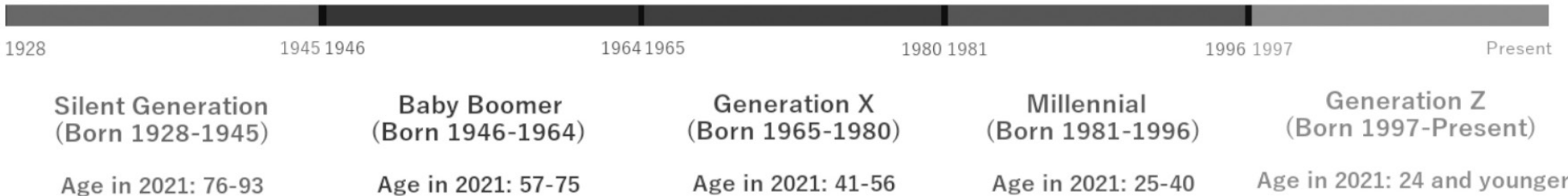
Despite the challenges children face in this uncertain time, there is hope that some positives have come out of the pandemic for this generation.

"There's some good things that come out," Rimm-Kaufman said. "Some kids are learning attention and organizational skills and self management skills that they never had before."

Rimm-Kaufman also said she is optimistic that children will overcome challenges caused by the pandemic if given adequate support.

"It is really up to the parents and adults to help kids understand what they've just experienced," Rimm-Kaufman said. "Your kids grow towards health when they're in contexts and environments that support them."

Timeline for the Generations



BIG Brain discovery could transform epilepsy treatment

U.Va. professors say a natural brain phenomenon could be used as a treatment

Kimball Sheehan | Staff Writer

Researchers at the University's Brain Immunology and Glia Center have recently discovered a natural brain repair mechanism may improve current epilepsy treatments.

Asst. Neuroscience Prof. Ukpong Eyo helped lead a group of researchers to discover an existing repair process that has the potential to unlock new approaches to epilepsy treatment. Eyo and his team recently published important findings in the scientific journal *Cell Reports*.

"Our findings suggest that a novel approach to do this is perhaps not to target the neurons directly, but to harness the natural strength of a different cell-type entirely to protect neurons," Eyo said in an email statement to *The Cavalier Daily*.

Epilepsy is a neurological disorder in which patients suffer from seizures. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 1.2 percent of the U.S. population had active epilepsy in 2015. While medical management and surgery can help to treat epilepsy, approximately one in three epilepsy patients are not well controlled with current seizure-preventing drugs.

Current treatments for epilepsy include anti-epileptic medication, ketogenic diets, surgery and vagus nerve stimulation, but these treatments are limited in efficacy and can have negative consequences. "Better treatments are necessary" for those with epilepsy, says Dr. Jaideep Kapur, professor of neurology and director of the University Brain Institute.

"Epilepsy shortens lives and causes physical and emotional injury," Kapur said in an email statement to *The Cavalier Daily*.

In collaboration with scientists at Mayo Clinic and Rutgers University, Eyo and his colleagues used sophisticated imaging called two-photon microscopy to study the brains of laboratory animals that had severe seizures. Remarkably, the researchers observed that naturally-occurring immune cells in the brain called microglia began to repair seizure-induced swollen branches of nerve cells called dendrites.

Rather than removing the malfunctioning cells, the microglia were repairing or healing the injured brain cells. The microglia formed "process pouches" around the injured cells that led to better appearance and healthier dendritic neuronal extensions in the severe seizure model.

The findings point to a potential use of the brain's own immune system to heal damaged neurons in epilepsy patients and may serve as an avenue to improve seizure disorders for a wide variety of patients.

Dr. Eyo has two grants from the National Institutes of Health that



ANISHA HOSSAIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

will allow him to continue his study of microglia in epilepsy and other challenging brain disorders.

"Dr. Eyo's studies may prove to be very important in the field of epilepsy," Assoc. Neurology Prof. Javier Provencio said in an email statement to *The Cavalier Daily*.

Eyo's work has mostly focused on observing the time period shortly following a seizure because this is when neurons are injured, which manifests as swollen dendrites. However, there is evidence that following a stroke or traumatic brain injury, similar structural aberrations occur in neurons.

The next steps for Eyo's continued investigation include researching whether the microglial activity really does improve neuronal function and developing an understanding of the

precise molecular mechanisms by which microglia improve epilepsy.

Eyo said he wonders if researchers can trace these molecular mechanisms in humans to improve outcomes from seizures, strokes, and traumatic brain injuries.

The findings could have clinical applications as well — Eyo said he anticipates that microglia will exhibit similar phenotypes in animal stroke models or traumatic brain injuries. Understanding the mechanisms that microglia employ to provide this protection may have a serious impact on several medical conditions of acute injury, according to Eyo.

Eyo used a contemporary social analogy comparing his research findings to COVID-19 and the raging Delta variant.

"Vaccines, of course, help in a big way to curb the effects of the vaccine but an additional source of protection to both the vaccinated and unvaccinated is the use of masks," Eyo said. "Our findings raise the tantalizing possibility that [we can] identify certain mechanisms that facilitate neuronal protection following acute injury, microglia can be an additional, complementary target to promote further protection."

Provencio said there are still several remaining questions to be further researched concerning epilepsy, such as status epilepticus, which is a prolonged seizure after which patients often do not return to normal after, due to the damage inflicted on the brain. Provencio also added it is still unknown why some who have

a single seizure go on to develop epilepsy.

"This is the first work I am aware of that investigates the interactions of microglia and neurons in real-time during seizures," Provencio said.

Eyo plans to continue his research on microglia so that it can improve the lives of many, and there are several challenges he anticipates because, unlike other cells in the body, neurons typically do not regenerate. As such, Eyo said exploring different manners to preserve the function and health of existing neurons is essential to future epilepsy research.

"We will be busy for a while," Eyo said.

 UVA
DEMOCRACY
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STORYCORPS ONE SMALL STEP



WHEN WAS
THE LAST TIME
YOU *REALLY*
LISTENED TO
A PERSON
WHO DOESN'T
SEE THE
WORLD LIKE
YOU DO?

THE UVA DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE INVITES YOU TO TAKE ONE SMALL STEP...

We are seeking people of all backgrounds and beliefs from the Charlottesville area to take part in One Small Step, a collaboration between UVA and StoryCorps. It's a chance to meet someone new with a different political view and get to know their story.

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- Wednesday, OCTOBER 13TH at 11AM in the Rotunda
- In-person and virtual options available
- RSVP for the launch and sign up for an interview at OneSmallStep.virginia.edu